

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

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HM17-1002

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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House Committees

HOUSE MEMORIAL 17-1002

101 **MEMORIALIZING FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD "RICH"**
102 **GEBHARDT.**

1 WHEREAS, Our respected former colleague Richard "Rich"
2 Gebhardt, a past member of the Colorado House of Representatives,
3 departed this life on February 13, 2017, at the age of 85; and

4 WHEREAS, Richard Glenn Gebhardt was born in Denver,
5 Colorado, on May 18, 1931, and at the age of two-and-a-half was adopted
6 by Glenn and Dora Gebhardt, both public school teachers; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Gebhardt grew up in Denver and
8 spent his summers traveling the western United States with his father,
9 Glenn, who was a photographer; and

10 WHEREAS, After graduating from South High School,
11 Representative Gebhardt enlisted in the United States Army at age 19 and
12 served as a medic in the Korean War; and

13 WHEREAS, During the last big drive of the war, Representative
14 Gebhardt's battalion was cut off from the rest of his group and during the

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 ensuing battle he was hit by shrapnel in the leg and abdomen. His
2 battalion was overrun by the North Koreans and he and a group of
3 soldiers were taken as prisoners; and

4 WHEREAS, Representative Gebhardt was rescued, and in July
5 1953 was honorably discharged as a Corporal and awarded the First Oak
6 Leaf Cluster, the CIB Medical Badge, and the Purple Heart; and

7 WHEREAS, When he returned to Colorado, Representative
8 Gebhardt attended the University of Colorado at Boulder, graduating with
9 a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics in 1957 and a
10 Masters of Public Administration in 1958, and during his time at school
11 was elected to student body government; and

12 WHEREAS, In the early 1960s, Representative Gebhardt began
13 pursuing his interest in politics when he worked on John F. Kennedy's
14 presidential campaign, and pursued many congressional and legislative
15 causes, including the 1960s Civil Rights Movement; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Gebhardt carried this quote from John
17 F. Kennedy in his wallet: "War marks you forever. While you need to
18 move to your future you cannot let go of what you had witnessed and
19 what you had learned. One thing learned is that you are capable of
20 personal courage when the need is thrust upon you. However, one
21 singular crucial idea you grasp from the experience of war is that war is
22 wrong and when you return home you must take the life of your country
23 seriously which means that the rest of the life you have been given as a
24 survivor means doing all you can to prevent another war."; and

25 WHEREAS, In 1965, Representative Gebhardt was elected to the
26 Colorado House of Representatives and served two terms as the first
27 Democrat elected in Boulder County in 16 years; and

28 WHEREAS, During his time in the state legislature, he ran the first
29 legislation to establish hospice care, though the legislation would not pass
30 for another 10 years; and

31 WHEREAS, Representative Gebhardt was the Western Regional
32 Campaign Chairman for Robert Kennedy's campaign for president,
33 traveling with Robert Kennedy to the south during the Civil Rights
34 Movement, and also served as a Colorado coordinator for Ted Kennedy's
35 campaign for president; and

1 WHEREAS, Representative Gebhardt was the Democratic
2 candidate for the United States House of Representatives Second
3 Congressional District in 1970; and

4 WHEREAS, For 25 years, Representative Gebhardt served as
5 Boulder County Public Trustee, serving under four Colorado governors,
6 and he worked for Northwestern Mutual Life for 53 years; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Gebhardt loved the outdoors, calling
8 himself a naturalist, and loved spending time in the mountains at his cabin
9 and near the ocean in Maui, Hawaii; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Gebhardt was an avid sports fan. He
11 especially loved basketball, and for many years he served as the official
12 timekeeper for the University of Colorado men's basketball team; and

13 WHEREAS, Representative Gebhardt loved taking his grandkids
14 for rides in his Jeep; was known for never missing a birthday, singing and
15 playing the harmonica for each family member; and shared special
16 conversations over breakfasts with his family, which will be sorely
17 missed but fondly remembered; and

18 WHEREAS, It is fitting that we, the members of the House of
19 Representatives of the Seventy-first General Assembly, pay tribute to the
20 dedicated service of Representative Richard "Rich" Gebhardt and express
21 our deep regret and sorrow occasioned by his death; now, therefore,

22 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first*
23 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

24 That, in the death of Richard Glenn Gebhardt, the people of the
25 State of Colorado have lost a devoted public servant and an outstanding
26 citizen, and that we, the members of the House of Representatives of the
27 Seventy-first General Assembly, pay tribute to Richard Gebhardt for his
28 years of dedicated public service and do hereby extend our deep and
29 heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family.

30 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Memorial be sent to
31 Representative Gebhardt's daughter, Kathy Gebhardt.